Economics 765: 
Economic Development

Topics: This course is the first in a two-semester introduction to the field of development economics. Major topics include:

(1) *Distribution and well-being*: Poverty, inequality, and determinants of variation in the distribution of income across countries and over time.

(2) *Agriculture*: Agricultural markets, agricultural growth, agrarian structure, technological and institutional change.

(3) *Environment*: Investment in natural capital; adjustment of national accounts for environmental degradation; population policy debates; political economy of sustainable and non-sustainable development.

(4) *External sector*: External assistance, international finance, and political conditionality.

(5) *Conflict*: The economic implications of conflict and war-to-peace transitions.

Books: The following books are available for purchase at Amherst Books (8 Main St, Amherst):


The books listed above are also available at the W.E.B. DuBois Library’s reserve room.

Assignments and expectations will be discussed in class.
I. DISTRIBUTION AND WELL-BEING

(a) Development and welfare


(b) Inequality and poverty: Measurement issues


(c) Distribution and growth


II. AGRICULTURE

(a) Agrarian structure


(b) The ‘green revolution’


(c) Market-assisted land redistribution


(d) Genetic diversity and its erosion


III. ENVIRONMENT

(a) Externalities


(b) Sustainable development


(c) Greening the national income accounts


(d) Population growth


(e) Political economy of environmental degradation


IV. EXTERNAL SECTOR

(a) External indebtedness


(b) External assistance


(c) **The state and the IFIs**


(d) **Political conditionality**


V. CONFLICT

(a) Causes of conflict


(b) Humanitarian dilemmas


(c) Consequences of conflict


(d) War-to-peace transitions


*Journal abbreviations:*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AER</td>
<td>American Economic Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJE</td>
<td>Cambridge Journal of Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Development &amp; Change</td>
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<td>EDCC</td>
<td>Economic Development and Cultural Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>EJ</td>
<td>Economic Journal</td>
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<td>Journal of Economic Literature</td>
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<td>Journal of Economic Perspectives</td>
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<td>ODS</td>
<td>Oxford Development Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>QJE</td>
<td>Quarterly Journal of Economics</td>
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<td>WD</td>
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